

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-2183
Bazil Methodist Church
320 Sherwood Road
Cockeysville, Baltimore County
1876
Private

Bazil Methodist Church was constructed in 1876 directly between the towns of Warren and Cockeysville and is representative of the many vernacular wood frame churches constructed throughout Baltimore County in the late 19th century. Bazil Methodist Church, however, was built to serve the area's African American population and might have initially served as a schoolhouse in addition to a Methodist Church. Located on what was then known as "Foote's Hill," the church had as its first pastor the Reverend Galing White. The land surrounding the church was, in 1877, occupied primarily by the Foote family, members of which are buried in the adjacent cemetery.

Bazil Methodist Church is a one-story vernacular wood frame building clad in asbestos shingles. The one-bay-wide, two-bay-deep building features a solid random rubble stone foundation, an asphalt-shingled front gable roof with square belfry, and a projecting one-bay-square enclosed entry porch. Circa 1920, a one-story addition with a shed roof was constructed on the west elevation of the church, which fronts south and sits close to Sherwood Road. Circa 1990, a one-story addition was constructed on the rear of the building. The façade of the main block is centrally pierced by a flush double-leaf metal door, while each side of the projecting bay features one multi-light leaded stained glass window. Only one sash-and-paneled single-leaf wood door pierces the façade of the shed addition. The cemetery is located to the east and north of the church. The graves to the north are sited in the woods behind the main structure and were not located at the time of the survey. Those approximately fifty stones located to the east of the church are arranged into roughly eleven rows that face east. The majority of the grave markers are upright granite stones, however some marble is also present. The earliest identifiable marker is that of Bazil Foote (1811-1878). Other family names identified in the cemetery are Davenport, Roebuck, Johnson, Swann, and Wright. Overall, the cemetery is in poor condition and still in use as a burial ground.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2183

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Basil Methodist Church (preferred)
other Basils Methodist Church, Basil A.M.E. Church

2. Location

street and number 320 Sherwood Road not for publication
city, town Cockeysville vicinity
county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Basils Methodist Church
street and number P.O. Box 612 telephone Not Available
city, town Cockeysville state MD zip code 21030

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber Not Available folio Not Available
city, town Towson tax map 42 tax parcel 127 tax ID number 0802000400

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

____ Contributing Resource in National Register District
____ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
____ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
____ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
____ Recorded by HABS/HAER
____ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
____ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
____ district	____ public	____ agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	____ commerce/trade	Noncontributing
____ structure	____ both	____ defense	____ buildings
____ site		____ domestic	____ sites
____ object		____ education	____ structures
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> funerary	____ objects
		____ government	____ Total
		____ health care	
		____ industry	
		____ landscape	
		____ recreation/culture	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
		____ social	
		____ transportation	
		____ work in progress	
		____ unknown	
		____ vacant/not in use	
		____ other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
2

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2183

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Constructed in 1876, Bazil Methodist Church is a one-story vernacular wood frame building clad in asbestos shingles. The one-bay-wide, two-bay-deep building features a solid random rubble stone foundation, an asphalt-shingled front gable roof with square belfry, and a projecting one-bay-square enclosed entry porch. Circa 1920, a one-story addition with a shed roof was constructed on the west elevation of the church, which fronts south and sits close to Sherwood Road. Circa 1990, a one-story addition was constructed on the rear of the building. The façade of the main block is centrally pierced by a flush double-leaf metal door, while each side of the projecting bay features one multi-light leaded stained glass window. Only one sash-and-paneled single-leaf wood door pierces the façade of the shed addition.

The cemetery is located to the east and north of the church. The graves to the north are sited in the woods behind the main structure and were not located at the time of the survey. Those approximately fifty stones located to the east of the church are arranged into roughly eleven rows that face east. The majority of the grave markers are upright granite stones, however some marble is also present. The earliest identifiable marker is that of Bazil Foote (1811-1878). Other family names identified in the cemetery are Davenport, Roebach, Johnson, Swann, and Wright. Overall, the cemetery is in poor condition and still in use as a burial ground.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2183

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1876-present **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1876, 1920 ca., 1990 ca.

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Bazil Methodist Church was constructed in 1876 directly between the towns of Warren and Cockeysville and is representative of the many vernacular wood frame churches constructed throughout Baltimore County in the late 19th century. Bazil Methodist Church, however, was built to serve the area's African American population and might have initially served as a schoolhouse in addition to a Methodist Church.¹ Located on what was then known as "Foote's Hill," the church had as its first pastor the Reverend Galing White.² The land surrounding the church was, in 1877, occupied primarily by the Foote family, members of which are buried in the adjacent cemetery.³

Joshua Cockey, the primary landowner in the area, founded the town of Cockeysville. The town is strategically located a half a mile east of the Beaver Dam marble quarries. Marble quarrying began in this region in 1780 and fully developed between 1815 and 1829. Shortly thereafter, the area's abundant limestone deposits were quarried. In 1804, the first limestone was burned in nearby Texas, Maryland. The availability of these two important stones enabled the construction of local buildings to feature marble and also limestone, although the latter was primarily used for agricultural purposes.

The early 19th century saw a great change in the town's rural character. Before the construction of the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad, Cockeysville was composed primarily of large farms with buildings scattered over the landscape. In 1838, the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad officially opened, passing through the town of Cockeysville, for travel from Baltimore to the Maryland/Pennsylvania line. The construction of the railroad through the town center enabled Cockeysville to grow into a larger community that included a wide array of commercial interests for a town of its size. By the mid-1800s, Cockeysville's commercial structures included a carriage manufacturer, carpentry shop, butcher's shop, dentist's office, distillery, and saloon. There were at least two general stores, blacksmith's shops, cobblers, and medical

¹ *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877).

² Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

³ *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877).

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2183

Name Basil Methodist Church, 320 Sherwood Road, Cockeysville, Baltimore County
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

doctors. Compared to other towns in the vicinity, Cockeysville could have been considered rather urban in its character.⁴

In 1838, the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad officially opened, passing through the town of Cockeysville, for travel from Baltimore to the Maryland/Pennsylvania line. In 1854, the Baltimore and Susquehanna, York and Maryland, York and Cumberland, and Susquehanna Railroad Companies were consolidated into the Northern Central Railroad Company, one of the largest railroad companies in Maryland. Thus, its location near the junction of the York Road and the Northern Central Railroad enabled Cockeysville to grow continually through the latter half of the 19th century.⁵ In 1877, commercial properties in Cockeysville included a blacksmith's shop, a carriage manufacturer, two merchants, and a marble works.⁶ By 1881, the small town's population had grown to 270 people located at this important intersection. By the late 19th century, the town of Cockeysville and its vicinity had established a flourishing trade industry supported by agriculture, mills, and marble quarries.

⁴ The Heritage Committee of the Greater Timonium, *The Limestone Valley* (Timonium, MD: The Greater Timonium American Bicentennial Committee, 1976), p. 15.

⁵ J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County from the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men* (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881), pp. 344-345.

⁶ *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2183

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County*. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys*. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .50 Acre
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Cockeysville Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1876, Bazil Methodist Church has been associated with the 1.5 acres of land known as tax parcel 127 of map 42 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 20, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

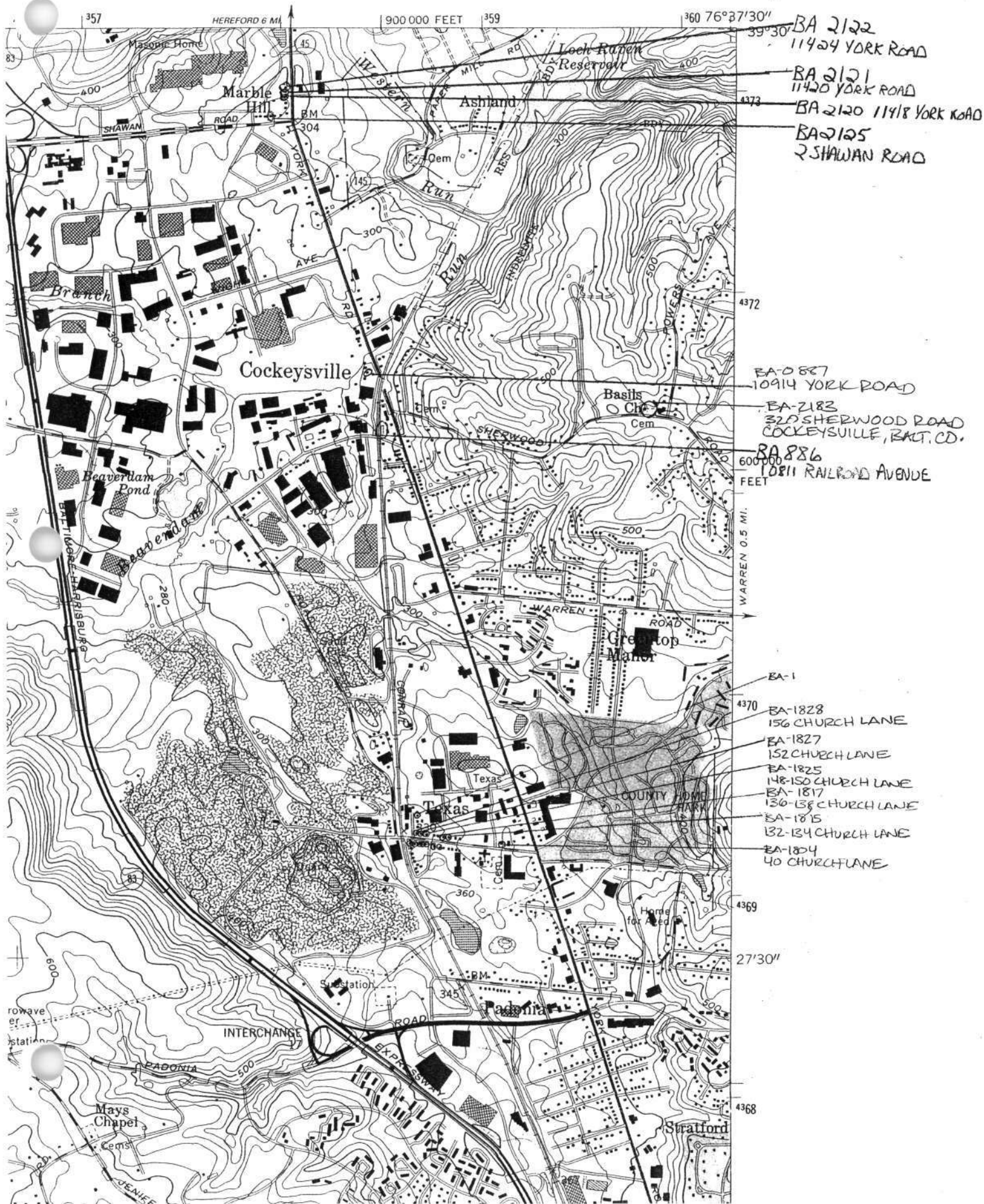
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

COCKEYSVILLE QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND—BALTIMORE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5663 11 SE
(PHOENIX)





BAZIL
AFRICAN METHODIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10:00 AM
WEDNESDAY - 7:00 PM
SUNDAY - 10:00 AM
SUNDAY - 5:00 PM
SUNDAY - 10:00 AM
SUNDAY - 5:00 PM
SUNDAY - 10:00 AM
SUNDAY - 5:00 PM

BA-2183

320 STERWOOD ROAD, COCKEYSVILLE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

SW CORNER

1 of 3



BA-2183
320 SHERWOOD ROAD, COCKEYSVILLE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

NE CORNER

2013



BA-2183

320 SHERWOOD ROAD, COCKEYSVILLE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPD

CEMETERY

3 of 3

BA-2183
Bazil AME Church
320 Sherwood Road
Cockeysville

1876

A frame and clapboard church in the vernacular style, this gable-front church has a small, square, open belfry with a shallow pyramidal hip roof, rectangular 1/1 sash windows, a standing seam metal roof, and a small gabled entrance vestibule. A graveyard adjoins the church on the east. The oldest stone is that of Bazil Foote, born in 1811; died 1878.

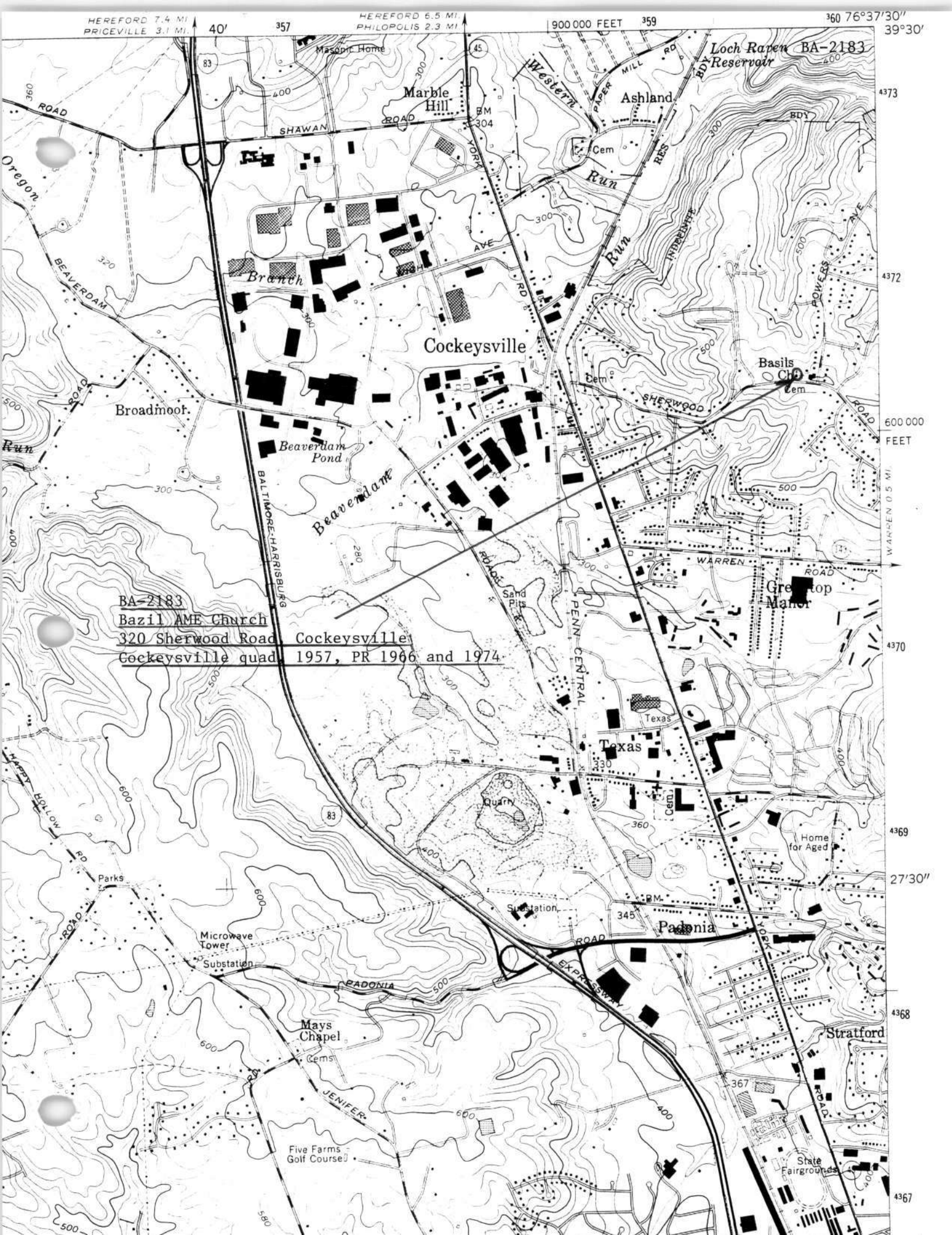
Bazil AME Church opened in 1876 on what was then referred to as Foote's Hill. The first pastor was the Rev. Galing White. Bazil Foote donated the land to build the church, services having previously been held in his home. Oral history indicates that Bazil was a white Pennsylvania farmer who was banished by his family when he married Elizabeth Smith, a black American Indian who was called Eliza. Settling in Cockeysville, Bazil and Eliza tended to dozens of acres and seven children, according to family tradition.

HEREFORD 7.4 MI
PRICEVILLE 3.1 MI

HEREFORD 6.5 MI
PHILOPOLIS 2.3 MI

900 000 FEET

360 76°37'30"
39°30'



BA-2183
Bazil AME Church
320 Sherwood Road Cockeysville
Cockeysville quad 1957, PR 1966 and 1974